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**REMARKS**

The application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated January 12, 2006. Claims 1-10 and 24 are pending. Claims 11-23 were previously canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been amended, without introducing new issues. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 24 are presented for reconsideration, with claims 1 and 6 being in independent form.

Claims 1-10 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 6 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention, in response to the indefiniteness rejection.

Regarding claim 3, the Office Action stated that "it is unclear who is 'automatically recognizing'".

However, claim 3 clearly recites "automatically recognizing by said control apparatus ..."

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is requested.

Claims 1-10 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,434,530 to Sloane et al. Claims 1-10 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sloane. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the known art. Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over the known art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,681,246 to Dutta. Claims 5 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sloane in view of Dutta. Claims 1-10 and 24, as understood by the Examiner,

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were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,690 to Wong in view of Dutta.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 6 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to automatically printing at a user-side printing apparatus transaction information of an electronic transaction between a user side and a supplier side. In the conventional electronic transaction system, the supplier or the consumer performs some action to specify and/or request that transaction information be printed. However, in some instances, the consumer may be left without a printed record of the relevant transaction information, because the transaction is concluded without any requests for transaction information to be printed.

Applicant devised techniques by which a hard copy of transaction information relating to a transaction conducted electronically between a user-side and a supplier-side is automatically printed, without a need for user action, so that the user has information which can be used for reference to track the transaction. A selected aspect of information regarding the electronic transaction, including at least one of a confirmation number, password and invoice information concerning electronic commerce is automatically identified. Such information can be used as a reference for retrieving transaction information. A print request is automatically generated by extracting electronic commerce information corresponding to the automatically identified information, and then automatically sent to a user-side printing apparatus to have the user-side printing apparatus print the transaction information regarding the electronic transaction, without manual request by the user to print the transaction information. Each of independent claims 1

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and 6 includes these features. The cited art, including the art discussed in the Background section of this application, simply does not disclose or suggest these features.

Contrary to the position expressed in the Office Action, it is not inherent in the art discussed in the Background section of this application to have a print request automatically generated, without a need for user action specifying the print request, by extracting electronic commerce information corresponding to the automatically identified information, and then automatically sending the print request to a user-side printing apparatus to have the user-side printing apparatus print the transaction information regarding the electronic transaction, without manual request by the user to print the transaction information.

Sloane, as understood by Applicant, is directed to an interactive shopping system at a store whereby a shopper at the store can operate a mobile interactive apparatus to select and specify articles to be purchased. Upon completion of shopping, the shopper brings the mobile interactive apparatus to a station, where information stored in the mobile interactive apparatus, such as a list of articles to be purchased, is downloaded to the POS (point-of-sales) system of the store which calculates the total for the items. After the shopper pays at the pay station, a receipt itemizing the shopper's purchases is printed out by a printing apparatus within the (supplier-side) POS system. Thus, Sloane proposes printing at the supplier-side and not at the user-side.

Sloane does not teach or suggest, however, automatically generating, without a need for user action specifying, a print request by extracting electronic commerce information corresponding to automatically identified information, and automatically sending the print request to a user-side printing apparatus to have the user-side printing apparatus print the transaction information regarding the electronic transaction, as provided by the claimed invention of each of independent claims 1 and 6.

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In addition, while the interactive shopping system proposed by Sloane can determine the price of a selected item and tally the total of a list of selected items, Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in Sloane of automatically identifying a selected aspect of information regarding the electronic transaction, including at least one of a confirmation number, password and invoice information concerning electronic commerce, as provided by the claimed invention of each of independent claims 1 and 6. There is simply no motivation to include means for determining such information in the POS system of Sloane, since the purchase is consummated by the shopper bringing the mobile apparatus to the POS station, downloading the information regarding the items to be purchased, and paying for the purchase while the shopper is physically at the POS location.

Dutta, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a client computer for automatically processing information for newspaper articles pushed onto the client computer by a server over a network based on client subscription to services provided by the server. Dutta proposes that the client computer can include a print script in which the time articles pushed onto the client computer are to be printed is specified (for example, 8 a.m. each day).

The Office Action states that Dutta teaches automatically printing "receipt information". It should be clarified that the information printed is the received information, that is, the articles (and not any sort of receipt for a commercial transaction).

Dutta simply does not disclose or suggest an electronic transaction between a user side terminal and a supplier side computer wherein a selected aspect of information regarding the electronic transaction, including at least one of a confirmation number, password and invoice information concerning electronic commerce, is automatically identified, and then a print request is generated after the automatic identification of the selected aspect of information regarding the

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electronic transaction, including the at least one of a confirmation number, password and invoice information. The automatic printing of articles disclosed by Dutta is not triggered by any detection of communication of electronic commerce information.

There is simply not the required motivation for modifying the cited art in the manner suggested in the Office Action.

Wong, as understood by Applicant, is directed to a business-to-business web commerce system based on a single integrated database management system. Wong proposes that providing a user interface through which a user can enter information into, and view information in, the database, and can print (a) a selected invoice stored in the database, (b) a quote confirmation, (c) a purchase summary, (d) return merchandise authorization, and (e) other selected information from the database.

The Office Action states that Wong discloses automatically printing a packing slip.

However, Wong at columns 29 and 30 proposes that when a business receives from a customer a request for return merchandise authorization (RMA), the request is processed and a RMA along with return packing slips are printed and sent (by mail, fax, etc.) to the customer for the customer to use in returning the merchandise. Thus, the packing slip is printed at the business (supplier) side.

Applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in Wong of automatically identifying a selected aspect of information regarding the electronic transaction, including at least one of a confirmation number, password and invoice information concerning electronic commerce, and after automatically identifying the selected aspect of information regarding the electronic transaction, including the at least one of a confirmation number, password and invoice information concerning electronic commerce, automatically generating, without a need for user

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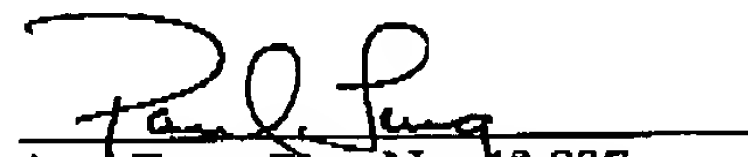
action specifying, a print request by extracting electronic commerce information corresponding to automatically identified information, and automatically sending the print request to a user-side printing apparatus to have the user-side printing apparatus print the transaction information regarding the electronic transaction, as provided by the claimed invention of amended claims 1 and 6.

In view of the amendments to the claims and remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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